

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00665 280748Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 W
-----010169 280752Z /13

R 280626Z MAR 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5913
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0665

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XA, IZ
SUBJECT: VISIT TO BAGHDAD OF OSMAN SALEH SUBI

REF: BAGHDAD 644

1. ELF/PLF/CHAIRMAN OSMAN SALEH SUBI VISITED BAGHDAD FOR A FEW DAYS CONCLUDING MARCH 24. UNLIKE HIS PREVIOUS TRIPS TO BAGHDAD, WHICH WERE FRONT-PAGE NEWS, A SINGLE NEWS ITEM ON THE SUBI VISIT WAS BURIED IN THE BACK PAGES OF BAGHDAD NEWSPAPERS. IT ALSO APPEARS FROM ARTICLE THAT SUBI WAS NOT RECEIVED AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL.

2. IRAQ NEWS AGENCY RELEASE ON SUBI'S VISIT STATES THAT HE DISCUSSED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ERITREA AND IN THE HORN OF AFRICA WITH UNNAMED MEMBERS OF THE BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND. SUBI IS QUOTED AS PRAISING THE MATERIAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT WHICH IRAQ IS PROVIDING TO THE
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ERITREAM REVOLUTION. HE ALSO LAUDED THE IRAQI STAND WHICH AIMS AT "ACHIEVING A JUST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ERITREAM CAUSE TO INSURE THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATION OF THE ERITREAM PEOPLE TO LIBERATION AND SELF-DETERMINATION."
THERE WAS NO IRAQI STATEMENT.

3. COMMENT: STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SUBI ARE NOT

VERY REVEALING, BUT IT MAY BE NOTEWORTHY THAT HIS
STATEMENT PLACED EMPHASIS ON A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO MILITARY ASPECTS OF
THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION. THE TIMING OF SUBI'S VISIT
COINCIDED ROUGHLY WITH THE VISIT HERE OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTER OF CUBA. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE
CUBAN AND ERITREAN VISITORS MET. HOWEVER, WE NOTE (REFTEL)
THAT IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HAD REFERRED TO EFFORTS BY
CUBAN GOVERNMENT TO REALIZE PEACE TALKS AMONG RIVAL
PARTIES IN HORN.
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Message Attributes

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